Pan-Jamaican Investment Trust Ltd

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- 31 DECEMBER 1998
- 1. Significant Accounting Policies
 - (a) Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain securities, investment in subsidiaries, investment properties and fixed assets.

(b) Consolidation

The group financial statements comprise the financial statements of the company, its subsidiaries and associated companies made up to 31 December 1998 except for Long Pond Estates Limited which is made up to 30 September 1998.

All amounts are stated in Jamaican dollars. At 31 December the rate of exchange was approximately \$37 to US\$1 (1997 - J\$36 to US\$ 1).

The wholly and partly owned subsidiaries at 31 December 1998 are:

	Principal Activities	Proportion of equity capita	
		Company	Subsidiary
First Life Insurance Company Limited	Life and Health Insurance	73%	
Jamaica Property Company Limited	Office Rental		100%
Jamaica Property Development Limited	Property Management		100%
Jamaica Property Management Limited	Property Management		100%
Pan Caribbean Merchant Bank Limited	Merchant Banking		100%
Pan Caribbean Investments Limited	Financial Services		100%
Portfolio Partners Limited	Investment Management		100%
Hardware & Lumber Limited	Trading	69%	
H.& L. True Value Limited	Trading		100%
H & L Agri & Marine Company Limited	Trading		100%
Hole-In-The-Wall Limited	Trading		100%
Office Services Limited	Construction and		100%
	Janitorial Services		
Wherry Wharf Sales Company Limited	Trading		93%
Jamaican Floral Exports Limited	Horticulture	80%	
Jamaican Heart Limited	Horticulture		100%
Pan-Jamaican Mortgage Society Limited	Financial Services	100%	
Scotts Preserves Limited	Manufacturing	100%	
Busha Browne's Company Limited	Distribution		100%
Busha Browne's Company Limited			
(Incorporated in the Bahamas)	Distribution		100%
Scotts of Jamaica Limited	Distribution		100%

The company and all subsidiaries, except where indicated otherwise, are incorporated in Jamaica.

During the year, a subsidiary, Jamaica Floral Exports (1993) Limited, was sold to a company controlled by certain directors of Pan-Jamaican Investment Trust Limited on the basis of an independent valuation.

(c) Expenses

Expenses are charged to income as incurred except for amounts allocated to lands awaiting development, construction in progress and developments for sale, subject to carrying costs not exceeding realisable value. Expenses which relate to future periods are included in deferred expenditure and amortised over the expected periods of benefit.

(d) Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost, with the exception of certain freehold land and buildings which are stated at depreciated replacement cost or market value as computed in 1977. Additions subsequent to valuation are stated at cost. The cost or valuation of fixed assets is written off on the straight line method over the expected useful lives of the assets held at the beginning of the year. The expected average useful lives are as follows:

Buildings 20 to 50 years
Plant, furniture and equipment 8 to 15 years
Motor vehicles 5 years
Leasehold improvement Life of lease
Leased assets Life of lease

Gains and losses arising on disposal of fixed assets are dealt with in the profit and loss account. Repairs and maintenance expenditure are charged to profit and loss account.

(e) Investment properties

Freehold land and buildings held for investment are stated at market value. Valuations are revised on the basis of annual appraisals carried out by independent property appraisers and valuers.

(f) Investments

Investments are stated as follows:

- (i) Quoted equities held by the insurance and banking subsidiaries at market value and all other equities at cost with adjustment for any permanent diminution in value;
- (ii) Unquoted equities are stated at cost with adjustment for any permanent diminution in value:

- (iii) Government of Jamaica and other securities at cost after provision for any anticipated loss on realisation;
- (iv) Mortgage loans at the aggregate of the unpaid principal;
- (v) Policy loans at the aggregate of the unpaid balance;
- (vi) Investments in associated companies are accounted for using the equity method of accounting;
- (vii) Assets held under repurchase agreement are stated at cost;
- (viii) Commercial paper investment is stated at cost;
- (ix) Deposits are stated at cost;
- (X) Equity investment is stated at the cost of the investment plus the group's and company's share of reserves arising since acquisition of the investment.
- (q) Investment reserves

The group's life insurance subsidiary, First Life Insurance Company Limited, reflects realised gains or losses together with unrealised appreciation or depreciation in market values of quoted equities and investment properties in investment reserves. A percentage of this reserve is transferred annually to the profit and loss account.

(h) Reserve for future benefits

The reserve for future benefits to policyholders is calculated by the group's actuary based on the details of business in force at the end of First Life Insurance Company Limited's accounting year, and represents the amount required, together with future premiums and interest, to provide for future benefits on insurance and annuity contracts. These reserves are calculated on the policy premium method, using interest and mortality assumptions appropriate to the policies in force. Any adjustment to the reserves is reflected in the year to which it relates.

(i) Taxation and deferred taxation

Taxation charged in these financial statements is based on the profit for the year. Deferred taxation is recorded only in respect of timing differences which are expected to reverse in the foreseeable future.

(j) Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are converted at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Balances due or payable in foreign currencies are translated at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date, Losses or gains are reflected in the Profit and Loss account.

(k) Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable, value, cost being determined on the FIFO and average cost bases.

(1) Finance leases

The gross investment in finance leases net of unearned income is recorded as a receivable balance. Income is recognised over the term of the lease.

(m) Provision for credit losses

Provision for credit losses is based on management's evaluation of the potential losses in the credit portfolio, taking into consideration the business and economic conditions.

(n) Premium income

Premiums are recognised as earned when due and are stated net of reinsurance premiums.

(o) Retirement benefit plans

Retirement benefits are actuarially determined based on career earnings. Employers' contributions to fund past service deficiencies and future service liabilities are made monthly and are charged to the profit and loss account.

2. Consolidated Profit and Loss Account

(a) Group profit before taxation is arrived at after charging/(crediting) the following items:

	1998 \$'000	1997 \$ ' 000
<pre>Interest earned from banking operations Investment income Directors' emoluments</pre>		(35,546) (101,120)
Fees	39	74
Other Auditors' remuneration	21,950	19,637
Current year	10,759	11,810
Prior year	132	71
Depreciation	24,340	31,608
Provision for credit losses	10,063	6,229
Amortisation of deferred expenditure	8,144	3 , 896
Loss/(Profit) on disposal of subsidiary	1,331	(3,323)
Share of profit in associated companies	(495)	<u>(7,874</u>)
(b) Interest		
	1998	1997
	\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000
Mortgage debentures and fixed loans	13,346	•
Bank overdraft and other	37 , 396	
Interest on banking operations	<u>12,611</u>	<u>22,027</u>
	<u>63,353</u>	<u>73,792</u>

(c) The charge for taxation comprises:

	1998	1997
	\$ ' 000	\$'000
Income tax at 33 1/3%	10,305	3,468
Tax credit on bonus issue of shares	(1,395)	· –
Prior year overprovision of income tax	_	1,880
Premium tax	2,375	2,837
Investment income tax	10,963	8,774
Contractors' levy	300	_
Stamp duties	3,025	2,136
	25,573	15,335

Subject to agreement with the Commissioner of Income Tax, tax losses available for set off against future profits of certain subsidiaries amounted to \$236,606,000 (1997 - \$228,121,000).

1998	1997
\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000

(24, 250)

(d) Net loss dealt with in the financial statements of the holding company was (11,515)

3. Dividends

The company made capital distribution of 2 cents per share.

4. Earnings per Stock Unit

The calculation of earnings per stock unit is based on:-

- (i) the group profit after taxation and minority interest;
- (ii) the weighted average number of units in issue during the year (1998 158,040,000; 1997 158,040,000).

5. Fixed Assets

The Group

Cost or Valuation 1 January 1998		Land & Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvement \$'000	Work in Progress \$'000	Equipment & Furniture \$'000	Motor Vehicles \$'000	Total \$'000
Additions 88 199 7,086 24,015 5,371 36,759 Reclassifications (5,560) 5,560 Disposals (2,612) (8,012) (10,624) Assets in subsidiary disposed of (1,951) (18,165) (732) (20,848) 31 December 1998 21,510 29,827 26,415 172,782 23,936 274,470 Depreciation - 1 January 1998 15,968 12,978 - 72,062 13,840 114,848 Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030)) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 31 December 1998 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	Cost or Valuation						
Reclassifications (5,560) 5,560 Disposals (2,612) (8,012) (10,624) Assets in subsidiary disposed of (1,951) (18,165) (732) (20,848) 31 December 1998 21,510 29,827 26,415 172,782 23,936 274,470 Depreciation 1 January 1998 15,968 12,978 - 72,062 13,840 114,848 Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030)) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 31 December 1998 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	1 January 1998	23,373	29,628	24,889	163,984	27 , 309	269,183
Disposals (2,612) (8,012) (10,624) Assets in subsidiary disposed of (1,951) (18,165) (732) (20,848) 31 December 1998 21,510 29,827 26,415 172,782 23,936 274,470 Depreciation - 1 January 1998 15,968 12,978 - 72,062 13,840 114,848 Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030)) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 31 December 1998 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	Additions	88	199	7 , 086	24,015	5 , 371	36 , 759
Assets in subsidiary disposed of (1,951) (18,165) (732) (20,848) 21,510 29,827 26,415 172,782 23,936 274,470 Depreciation - 1 January 1998 15,968 12,978 - 72,062 13,840 114,848 Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 31 December 1998 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	Reclassifications	_	_	(5 , 560)	5,560	_	_
disposed of 31 December 1998 21,510 29,827 26,415 172,782 23,936 274,470 Depreciation - 1 January 1998 15,968 12,978 - 72,062 13,840 114,848 Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 31 December 1998 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115		_	_	_	(2,612)	(8,012)	(10,624)
Depreciation -	Assets in subsidiary						
Depreciation - 1 January 1998		(1,951)	_	_	(18,165)		(20,848)
1 January 1998 15,968 12,978 - 72,062 13,840 114,848 Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030) 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 31 December 1998 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	31 December 1998	21,510	29 , 827	26,415	172 , 782	23,936	274,470
Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	Depreciation -						
Charge for the year 3,858 2,361 - 13,765 4,356 24,340 On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	1 January 1998	15,968	12,978	_	72,062	13,840	114,848
On disposals (2,126) (6,677) (8,803) Depreciation relieved on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639) (293) (9,030) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115		·	2,361	_	•	·	·
on disposal of subsidiary (98) (8,639 (293) (9,030) 31 December 1998 19,728 15,339 - 75,062 11,226 121,355 Net Book Value - 31 December 1998 1,782 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	On disposals	_	_	_	(2,126)	(6 , 677)	(8,803)
31 December 1998							
Net Book Value - 31 December 1998	subsidiary		_	_			
31 December 1998 <u>1,782</u> 14,488 31,975 97,720 12,710 153,115	31 December 1998	<u> 19,728</u>	15,339	_	75,062	11,226	121,355
	Net Book Value -						
	31 December 1998	1,782	14,488	31,975	97 , 720	12,710	153,115
	31 December 1997						

PAN-JAMAICAN INVESTMENT TRUST LTD.

The Company

Cost	Leasehold Improvement \$'000	Plant, Equipment & Furniture \$'000	Motor Vehicles \$'000	Total \$'000
Cost -				
1 January 1998 Additions Disposals	199 - 	2,642 126 -	1,853 - (590)	4,694 126 (590)
31 December 1998	199	2 , 768	1,263	4,230
Depreciation -				
1 January 1998	148	1,525	1,045	2,718
Charge for the year On disposals	15	196	308 (472)	519 (472)
31 December 1998	163	1,721	881	2,765
Net Book Value -	36	1 047	382	1 465
31 December 1998 31 December 1997	51	1,047 1,117	808	1,465 1,976
of December 1991		± / ± ± /	000	±, 5, 0

6. Investment Properties

Investment properties were valued at current market value as at 31 December 1998 by The C.D. Alexander Company Realty Limited, property appraisers and valuers.

7. Investments

	The Group		Th∈	The Company	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	
	\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000	\$'000	\$'000	
Associated companies -					
Cost	55 , 388	55,273	48,358	48,358	
Group's/company's share of -	,	,	,	.,	
Net loss	(44,820)	(45, 315)	(36, 144)	(36, 144)	
Write down of investment	(12,214)	(12,214)	(12,214)	(12, 214)	
Reserves	45,412	45,445	_	_	
	43,766	43,189			
Equity Investment	54,655	55 , 710	34,905	_	
Quoted	68 , 827	71,015	563	35,012	
Unquoted	3 , 507	7,468	19,550	562	
Government of Jamaica and	,	,	•		
other securities	889,664	400,220	_	22,410	
Mortgage loans	25,687	22,774	-	_	
NHT contributions	161	161	12	12	
	1,086,267	600,537	55,030	57,996	

The group's associated companies and shareholdings are as follows:-

Proportion held by First Life Insurance Company Limited -

Impan Properties Limited	_	20%
Knutsford Holdings Limited	_	28%
St. Andrew Developers Limited	-	66%
Proportion held by the company -		
Long Pond Estates Limited	_	40%

The Group's investment in St. Andrew Developers Limited is intended to be short term and, as a result, this is accounted for on the equity method.

The National Housing Trust contributions were made prior to 31 July 1979 and are recoverable in the years 2001 to 2004.

8. Other Insurance and Banking Assets

	The Group	
	1998	1997
	\$'000	\$'000
Loans on policies	24,642	27,154
Loans to customers and lease receivables	113,016	245,991
Accrued interest	72 , 961	48,117
Customers' liability under guarantees	26,484	26,462
Receivables	91,250	62,583
Cash resources	67 , 960	65 , 692
	396,313	475,999

\$'000

\$ '000

(a) Included in loans to customers and lease receivables is the group's investment in finance leases as follows:

Minimum lease payments	receivable,	less provision for lo	sses 53,059
Less: Unearned finance	income		(<u>13,139</u>)
			39,920

Minimum lease payments are receivable in the years ending 31 December:

1999	30,607
2000	18,046
2001	3,814
2002	592
	53,059

(b) Cash resources include a subsidiary's statutory cash reserve with the Bank of Jamaica amounting to \$16,165,000 (1997 - \$25,222,000). This amount is held on a non-interest bearing basis and is not available for investment or other use by the subsidiary.

9. Deferred Expenditure

Deferred expenditure comprises -

	The Group	
	1998 \$'000	1997 \$'000
Horticulture development costs	-	8,849
Other expenditure	21,214	<u>18,034</u>
	21,214	26,883

Horticulture development costs related to the subsidiary that was sold effective 1 January. Other expenditure is amortised over three to five years.

10. Bank Indebtedness

	The Group			The Company		
Bank loans and overdrafts	1998 \$'000 38,033	1997 \$'000 48,145	1998 \$'000 4,337	1997 \$'000 12,755		
Amounts included in -						
Current maturities	13,060	11,206	_	_		
Long term liabilities	21,719	21,691	_	_		
-	34,779	32,897	_	_		
Aggregate amount	72,812	81,042	4,337	12,755		
Amount secured	64,818	31,154				

11. Share Capital

	1998	1997	
	\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000	
Authorised -	15 500	45.500	
Ordinary shares of 10c each	<u>17,500</u>	<u>17,500</u>	
Issued and fully paid -			
Ordinary stock units of 10c each	<u>15,804</u>	<u>15,804</u>	
12. Capital and Other Reserves			
		The	The
		Group	Company
		1998	1998
		\$'000	\$'000
Share premium -			
Balance at beginning and end of year		14,768	14,768
Realised capital reserves -			
Balance at beginning of year		269,061	279 , 085
Transfer (to)/from retained earnings -		·	·
Capital distribution		(3,161)	3,161
Retained earnings capitalised		4,968	
		<u>270,868</u>	275,924
Unrealised capital reserves -			
Balance at beginning of year		19,792	_
Arising during the year -			
Exchange gain on translation of foreign subsidiary		854	
		20,646	
Insurance and Banking Reserves -			
Investment reserves:			
Balance at beginning of year		393 , 272	-
Arising during the year - Realised and unrealised losses on investment propertie	e.	(16,032)	_
realised and unleafised losses on investment brobertie	ی	(10,032)	_

Transfer from special reserves Realised and unrealised gain on other investments (net Transfer to ordinary life business revenue account	(49,620)	- - -
Other	(3,931) 337,166	<u>-</u>
Special reserves (note 13):		
Balance at beginning of year	44,092	_
Transfer to investment reserves	(7,333)	-
Transfer from profit and loss -		
Insurance	1,954	_
Banking	10,108	_
	48,821	
	692,269	290 , 692

13. Special Reserves

Insurance

First Life Insurance Company Limited has included actuarial reserves for future policyholder benefits as part of policyholders' funds and additional reserves that are required to be set aside by Insurance Regulatory Authorities as part of shareholders' funds. The Special Reserve represents:

- (a) The sum of the negative reserves which have been offset in the reserve for future benefits, and
- (b) The difference between the cash surrender value (CSV) of the policies and the reserve for future benefits, where the CSV is greater.

The reserve is non-distributable.

Banking

This represents the amount that Pan Caribbean Merchant Bank Limited is required to set aside under the licence under which it operates and is non-distributable.

14. Policyholders' Funds

	The Group		
	1998	1997	
	\$'000	\$ ' 000	
Policyholders' funds comprise the following			
actuarial liabilities:			
Reserve for future benefits receivable	386,354	368,951	
Deposit administration funds	524 , 965	408,106	
Pooled pension funds	283,561	203,494	
Policy dividends on deposit	15,260	18,425	
Other policyholders' funds	784	1,455	
	1,210,924	1,000,431	

The actuary has given his opinion that the actuarial liabilities are adequate to provide for future payments under the terms of the policies in force.

The Group

15. Other Insurance and Banking Liabilities

		-
	1998	1997
	\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000
Amounts due to other banks	52 , 397	41,809
Customers' deposits and savings accounts	118,159	105,238
Customers' liabilities under guarantees	26,484	26,462
Payables	63 , 768	75 , 265
Benefits payable to policyholders	14,337	14,667
Bank overdraft	7,476	99
	282,621	263,540

16. Long Term Liabilities

		The Group		The Company	
		1998	1997	1998	1997
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Secured loans -					
First mortgage deb	enture stocks				
9 1/2%	1975 - 1999	557	1,064	601	1,149
21%	1984 - 2001	500	500	500	500
13%	1976 - 2000	142	201	142	201
12%	1979 - 2003	1,167	1,329	1,307	1,489
21%	1988 - 1998	_	43	-	71
18 1/2%	1995 - 1999	3,000	6,000	3,000	6,000
22%	1985 - 2006	-	810	3,843	4,063
22%	1987 - 2007	-	-	1,226	1,279
First mortgage de					
22%	1989 - 2009	-	_	1,000	1,000
	ia Jamaica Limited				
Variable rate	1996 - 2001	681	717	_	_
Trafalgar Develop	ment Bank Limited				
32%	1990 - 1998	_	503	_	_
14%	1996 - 1999 (US\$101,309)	-	3,693	-	_
3%	1998 - 2002 (US\$320,833)	11,923	14,644	-	_
Variable rate	1990 - 1998	-	11	-	_
Citibank N.A.	(US\$330,000)				
Variable rate	1998 -2002	12,823	-	-	-
CIBC Jamaica Limi	ted				
14%	1997 -2000	5 , 694	11,586	_	_
Victoria Mutual B					
12%	1997 - 2001 (£1,000,00)	61 , 067	59 , 023	61 , 067	59 , 023

M F&G Trust & Merchant Bank Limited 42% 1997-2001 Total Secured	d	<u>-</u> 97,554	914 101,038	- 72 , 686	<u>-</u> 74,775
10001 2000100		377001	101/000	<u> </u>	<u>* 17 * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *</u>
	Th	ne Group	The Co	ompany	
	1998	1997	1998	1997	
	\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000	\$ ' 000	
Unsecured loans -					
Variable rate loans repayable					
1994 - 1998		1,743	_	_	
Variable rate Debt Bonds					
1997 - 1999	3,000	16,000	_	_	
1998 - 2001	11,200	25 , 490	_	_	
2000 - 2001	13,203	16,000	_	_	
Pan Caribbean Merchant Bank Limited	_	_	_	783	
First Life Insurance Company Limited	_	_	2 , 685	3 , 981	
George and Branday Limited					
23% 1998 - 2000	2,505	_	_	_	
Allied Insurance Brokers Limited					
12% 1997 - 2000	3,334	6 , 578	_	_	
Total unsecured	33,242	65,811	2 , 685	4,764	
	130,796	166,849	75 , 371	79 , 539	
Less current maturities	33,735	33,611	6,890	8,115	
	97,061	133,238	68,481	71,424	

17. Retirement Benefit Plans

The company and its subsidiaries participate in contributory pension plans administered by First Life Insurance Company Limited. Benefits under the plans are based on the employees' earnings during recognised service.

(a) First Life Insurance Company Limited

The latest actuarial valuation which was carried out at 31 December 1995, revealed a past service surplus of \$4,084,000. The actuary has recommended that the employer contribute at a rate of 3.1% of members' earnings until the next valuation date, which should be no later than 31 December 1998. The employees contribute at 5%. Effective 1 January 1998, the company implemented the actuary's recommendation.

(b) Jamaica Property Company Limited

The latest actuarial valuation which was carried out at 31 December 1995 revealed that there was inadequate funding to provide the benefits under the plan and that there was a deficiency of \$3,248,000 as at that date.

In order to restore the solvency of the scheme, the actuaries have recommended that, allowing for members contribution at the rate of 5% of earnings, the employer should contribute 6% of members' pensionable earnings and that the valuation be conducted no later than 31 December 1998. The company has been contributing at the rate of 10% of members' pensionable earnings since 1996.

(c) Pan Caribbean Merchant Bank Limited

Based on the latest actuarial valuation which was carried out at 31 December 1995, the scheme is adequately funded.

(d) Hardware and Lumber Limited and its Subsidiaries

The company and most of its subsidiaries participate in a plan whose benefits are based on 2% of final five years' average salary for each year of service. The latest actuarial valuation, which was carried out at 31 December 1996, indicated that there was a past service deficiency of \$2,294,000. The trustees have implemented the actuary's recommendation that, effective 1 January 1997, the employer contributes at the rate of 6.2% of members' earnings until the next valuation date which should occur no later than 31 December 1999. The employer's contribution of 6.2% includes a contribution of 3% of members' basic earnings, which is required to eliminate the deficiency over a period of three years. The employees contribute at a rate of 5% of earnings.

One subsidiary, Office Services Limited, participates in a plan whose benefits are based on career earnings. The latest actuarial valuation, which was carried out as at 31 December 1995, indicated that there was a funding surplus of \$157,000.

(e) Jamaican Floral Exports Limited and its Subsidiaries

The company operates a trusteed pension plan for non-unionised employees. The plan is administered by First Life Insurance Company Limited and benefits are based on accumulated contributions.

(f) Scott's Preserves Limited

The latest actuarial valuation which was carried out at 31 December 1989 indicated that the scheme was adequately funded. The employer contributes at a rate of 10% of pensionable earnings while the employees contribute at a rate of 5% of pensionable earnings.

During the year contributions made by the group were \$8,221,000 (1997 - \$12,573,000) and by the company \$402,000 (1997 - \$573,000).

18. Contingency

The Commissioner of Income Tax has assessed one of the subsidiaries on an estimated basis for income taxes totalling \$1,500,000 in respect of the years of assessment 1987 - 1989. No provision for liability has been made in the accounts based on the subsidiary's objection to the matter.

19. Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure authorised and committed by the group at 31 December 1998, not provided for in these financial statements, amounted to:

Group & Company

1998 1997 \$1000 \$1000

1,710 16,831

20. Assets under Management

Assets under management, which are not beneficially owned by certain subsidiaries, but which are managed by these subsidiaries on behalf of investors, have been excluded from the consolidated balance sheet. At the balance sheet date, the book value of these assets amounted to \$4,444,698,000 (1997 \$2,113,690,000).

21. Comparative Information

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.